AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments without prejudice or disclaimer.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, line 4, with the following:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Serial No. 09/893,191, filed June 26, 2001, now allowed, which claims the priority benefit of the provisional patent applications U.S. Serial No. 60/213,908, filed June 26, 2000, and U.S. Serial No. 60/277,748, filed March 21, 2001, ~~both~~all of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

Please replace the following paragraph starting on page 2, line 18 with the following:

Various target nucleic acid amplification methods have been described in recent years. Target nucleic acid amplification is carried out through multiple cycles of incubations at various temperatures (thermal cycling) or alternatively, carried out by an isothermal process. The discovery of thermostable nucleic acid modifying enzymes has also contributed to rapid advances in nucleic acid amplification technology. Thermostable nucleic acid modifying enzymes, such as DNA and RNA polymerases, ligases, nucleases and the like, are used both in methods dependent on thermal cycling and isothermal amplification methods. For example, a method for "homogeneous isothermal amplification and detection of nucleic acids using a template switch oligonucleotide" is described in ~~WO/070095A2~~WO 00/70095 A2 (Liu, et al.).

Please replace the paragraph at beginning at page 3, line 9 with the following:

Isothermal nucleic acid amplification methods based on strand displacement, are described. See, for e.g., Fraiser et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,648,211; Cleuziat et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,824,517; and Walker et al. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 89:392-396 (1992). Other isothermal target amplification methods are the transcription-based amplification methods, in which an RNA polymerase promoter sequence is incorporated into primer extension products at an early stage of the amplification (WO 98/01050), and target sequence, or target complementary sequence, is further

amplified by transcription and digestion of the RNA strand in a DNA/RNA hybrid intermediate product. See, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,169,766 and 4,786,600. Target nucleic acid amplification may be carried out through multiple cycles of incubations at various temperatures, i.e. thermal cycling, or at one temperature (an isothermal process). These methods include transcription-mediated amplification (TMA), self-sustained sequence replication (3SR), nucleic acid sequence-based amplification (NASBA), and variations thereof. See, for example, Guatelli et al. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 87:1874-1878 (1990); U.S. Patent Nos. 5,766,849 (TMA); and 5,654,142 (NASBA). Other amplifications methods use template switching oligonucleotides (TSOs) and blocking oligonucleotides. For example, a template switch amplification method in which chimeric DNA primers are utilized is disclosed in U.S. Patent 5,679,512 and by Patel et al. (*Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* 93:2969-2974 (1996)), and a method that uses blocking oligonucleotides is disclosed by Laney et al. in U.S. Patent No. 5,679,512.

Please replace the paragraph at beginning at page 84, line 9 with the following:

Amplification products can also be used for detecting presence of and/or quantifying a nucleic acid sequence of interest in a sample. For example, presence of a nucleic acid sequence of interest in a sample can be detected by detecting the sequence of interest in amplification product resulting from amplifying polynucleotides in a sample suspected of comprising the sequence of interest. In some embodiments, a sequence of interest comprises a mutation, for example, a single nucleotide polymorphism, an insertion, a deletion or a substitution. A sequence of interest in an amplification product can be detected by any of a variety of methods known in the art, including, for example, hybridizing amplification product comprising (or suspected of comprising) the sequence of interest with a nucleic acid probe that is hybridizable to the sequence of interest. Suitable nucleic acid probes would be evident to one skilled in the art, and include, for example, probes that comprise DNA, RNA or DNA and RNA. These probes can be provided in any suitable form, including, for example, as microarrays, which may comprise the probe immobilized on a suitable substrate that can be fabricated from a material such as paper, glass, plastic, polypropylene, nylon, polyacrylamide, nitrocellulose, silicon and optical fiber. Detection of sequence of interest in an amplification product can also be achieved by methods such as limited primer extension, which are known in the art and described in, for example, U.S. Patent Nos. 5,888,819; 6,004,744; 5,882,867; 5,710,028; 6,027,889; 6,004,745; 5,763,178; 5,011,769; 5,185,243; 4,876,187;

5,882,867; WO ~~US~~88/02746; WO 99/55912; WO 92/15712; WO 00/09745; WO 97/32040; WO 00/56925, and in co-pending U.S. Application Ser. No. 60/255,638, filed 13 December, 2000.